

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035216

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE YOUR 1558, SORRY FOR THE DELAY IN LETTING YOU KNOW ABOUT TED MCNAMARA'S STAYING ON IN GENEVA TO HELP WITH THE CTB TALKS. ACDA HAS JUST CONFIRMED TO US THAT THEY WOULD LIKE HIS CONTINUED SERVICES FOR TWO WEEKS BEGINNING FEB 20, AND WILL ACCREDIT HIM TO CTB DELEGATION.
2. SENATOR STEVENSON REVIEWED KEN SKOUG'S MEMCONS, MADE NO CHANGES, AND SAID THEY WERE REMARKABLY ACCURATE ACCOUNTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS. WE WILL TYPE THEM IN FINAL AND DISTRIBUTE THEM.
3. NATURAL GAS. STATE (EB/FSE) IS REPRESENTED ON THE LNG TASK FORCE. THEY ARE GOOD ABOUT COORDINATING WITH US. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE LNG TASK FORCE WILL HAVE TO
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PREPARE A "PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT" STATEMENT THAT IT WILL BE AT LEAST ANOTHER SIX MONTHS OR LONGER BEFORE THE TASK FORCE PRODUCES A POLICY STATEMENT. WE HAVE HAD NO REACTION THUS FAR TO ORUDZHEV'S COMMENTS ON YAKUTSK RESERVES. WE WOULD EXPECT TO TALK TO LISTER OF EL PASO AFTER THE MARCH TRILATERAL, AS WE USUALLY DO.

4. VASEV BROUGHT IN ANOTHER BATCH OF MATERIAL ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE TBILISA CASE. I ASSUME THAT WHEN TRANSLATED IT WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU IN THE SAME CHANNEL AS THE PREVIOUS BATCH.

5. WE AGREE THAT IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR EMBASSY TO TRY TO ATTEND UPCOMING TRIALS, PARTICULARLY IN SHCHARANSKY CASE. YOU ARE THE BEST JUDGE ABOUT APPROACHING MFA TO FACILITATE ATTENDANCE, BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF MFA ADAMANTLY SAYS NO? OUR INCLINATION WOULD BE TO TRY TO ATTEND ANYWAY, UNLESS TRIAL ARE ANNOUNCED AS CLOSED FOR NATIONAL SECURITY REASONS. IF YOU FEEL IT NECESSARY, YOU MAY WANT TO SEND A REGULAR CABLE ON THIS, ASKING FOR OUR CONCURRENCE. WE WILL DISCUSS WITH AMBASSADOR WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 20.

6. WE ARE WORKING ON OPTIONS FOR HANDLING SHCHARANSKY TRIAL -- PRESS GUIDANCE, OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, APPROACHES TO SOVIETS, ETC. AND WILL GIVE YOU A SENSE OF WHERE WE ARE GOING WHEN WE CLEAR OUR IDEAS HIGHER. AT THIS POINT, WE ARE THINKING OF PREPARING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL STATE OUR CONCERNS AND, HOPEFULLY, AVOID HAVING TO COMMENT ON EVERY DEVELOPMENT IN THE TRIAL AS IT PROCEEDS. WE WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE TO DEAL WITH POTENTIAL CHARGES AGAINST AMERICANS DURING TRIAL. WE ARE TRYING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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COORDINATE A POSITION AMONG EVERYONE CONCERNED SO THAT ALL QUESTIONS ARE REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. IF TRIAL SUDDENLY OPENS WITHOUT WARNING, SUGGEST YOU NOT COMMENT OFFICIALLY IN MOSCOW UNTIL YOU GET OUR GUIDANCE.

7. RE FARRAND ASSIGNMENT. I WILL DROP EVERYTHING AND TRY TO FLATTEN THIS MOLEHILL.

8. WE CHECKED ON THE QUESTION OF HOLDING A BACKGROUNDER ON "BEREZINA" EXERCISE. INITIAL REACTION WAS NO OBJECTION, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY TODAY AN OBJECTION WAS REGISTERED. WE THINK IT CAN BE OVERCOME, BUT CAN'T DO IT TONIGHT. I THINK THAT IF YOU WERE ABLE TO CONSULT WITH NATO EMBASSIES AND ENCOUNTERED NO OBJECTION YOU COULD SAFELY GO AHEAD. VANCE

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